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Gentlemen:

The August 11 issue of the Richmond Times-Dispatch included an article indicating the State Corporation Council was studying the feasibility of burying power and telephone lines here in Virginia. The public's input was solicited..... thus my comments.

During a long career I lived and worked in a number of hurricane and tornado active locations. We were always subject to a few limited "interruptions" but it's not a perfect world.

In 1997, after retiring, we moved to the Woodlake subdivision in Chesterfield County where all utilities are buried underground. **Never in my life have I been subject to the power outages we suffered here in a community where "all the utilities are underground"**. And the problems were within the Woodlake area not in the above ground connections leading to Woodlake. After several years of these "problems" we finally purchased a power generator to provide "backup" for the power interruptions we continued to have. Others in this area have also purchased "back up power" generators.

I don't know the extent it is possible to define this problem from the power company files. Some times it was large portions of Woodlake and other times it was only a several block area.

My request - Before you finalize this study - Our experience here in Woodlake confirms there are continuing and serious "power interruption" problems in areas with buried transmission lines. Does the state fully understand (1) problems will continue and (2) underground problems are much more difficult and expensive to both find and correct. Good luck with your studies.



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